



# NORTH PLATTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"To Protect And Serve"*

Martin Gutschenritter  
Chief of Police

To Whom It May Concern:

DATE: December 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Comments regarding Feasibility of a Cost Recovery Mechanism

The 911 surcharge on land line phones has been a wonderful benefit for the North Platte Police Department. When the North Platte Police Department and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office consolidated their dispatch centers we were able to purchase new radio and computer equipment for the building the city built for the 911 center. This would not have been possible without the 911 surcharge. In fact, we found it necessary to raise our surcharge to the maximum allowed limit in August 2000. Some of the equipment that was purchased in 1998 has reached the end of its useful life, and we were able to purchase replacement and/or upgrades with this money. With the arrival of cell phones and Voice over IP, we have noticed a decrease in the amount of monies collected from land line telephones. As an example, the money collected by Qwest has decreased by 29.37 percent from 2001 to 2005. There are other reasons why land lines may decrease, but we believe the principal reason is the increased use of cell phones in the place of land line telephones. We have seen an increase in the number of 911 calls received in our center over the last four years....from 47.20 percent when we first began receiving stats on wireless calls in August 2003...to a 58.76 percent average for the current year.

The North Platte/Lincoln County 911 Center has seen the benefit of the Wireless 911 surcharge in the form of reimbursements for mapping and phone system upgrades that will enable us to receive Phase II Wireless calls. We believe there should also be a mechanism for cost recovery to compensate for the loss of land line phones to wireless. The necessity of upgrades and repairs to equipment will continue as we strive to provide the best possible service to the citizens of Lincoln County. We also believe the idea to limit the recovery to the amount lost to wireless is a good one, at least for our department. We are lucky enough to serve a comparatively large population which has given us a good base of 911 monies. We realize smaller agencies are not this fortunate.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Agler  
Clerk-Dispatch Supervisor

(and)

Dwight L. Livingston, Jr.  
Deputy Chief of Police

